GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:912
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2001
LAND REFORMS
ANANTRAO GUDHE

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed the implementation of Land Reforms in the Conference held with State Governments;

(b) if so, the details of the agenda discussed, decision taken and time bound action plan formulated in this regard State-wise;

(c) the surplus land distributed/yet to be distributed among the landless families, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for effective implementation of land reforms, particularly in the Hindi belt of the country?

Answer

Minister of State for Rural Development(SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) With a view to evolving a consensus on the means to tackle the various issues related to land reforms and formulating specific issues for consideration by the ensuing Conference of State Ministers of Revenue, a Conference of the Revenue Secretaries of States/UTs was held on 14.10.2000 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, wherein all the aspects related to land reforms were discussed/reviewed at length. The main decision taken in the Conference are given in Annexure-I.

(c) A Statement showing the State-wise land declared surplus, land taken possession of and land distributed among the landless poor is shown in Annexure-II.

(d) In order to operationalise the recommendations made and decisions arrived at during the conference of Revenue Secretaries of States/UTs held on 14.10.2000 for an effective implementation of the land reforms and to formulate specific issues for consideration by the ensuing National Conference of State Ministers of Revenue, Government of India has constituted a National Level Task Force under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Land Resources).

ANNEXURE - I

MAIN DECISIONS TAKEN IN THE REVENUE SECRETARIES CONFERENCE HELD ON 14.10.2000

(i) Patta Pass Books be issued to all farmers, uniformly, throughout the country.

(ii) The practice of reverse tenancy should be ended.

(iii) A special drive on the lines of Operation Berga may be undertaken to confer occupancy rights on the tenants/sharecroppers.

(iv) The status of land holdings in the name of charitable trusts/religious/educational/industrial institutions in the State should be assessed and the exemptions provided to them reviewed, with reference to the degree and extent to which the intended purpose was being served.

(v) With a view to identifying benami lands, organisations of tenants and sharecroppers should be formed to provide necessary evidence leading to prevention of benami transactions. The Gram Sabhas and Voluntary Organisations should also be associated for the purpose.

(vi) Computerisation of Land Records should be accelerated and accorded high priority in tribal areas.

(vii) Digitisation of the cadastral map should be undertaken with the help of the modern equipments in order to maintain accuracy and reliability.

(viii) Immediate steps be taken to complete the work of patta distribution, by forest officers on forest lands, cultivated by tribals and others.

(ix) The High Courts in the States be approached to set up special Benches for expeditious disposal of the pending Court cases.

(x) Revenue officers be vested with magisterial powers for dealing with the cases involving ceiling surplus land.